

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A data storage apparatus comprising:  
2 an interface configured to receive digital data; and  
3 a data processor communicatively coupled to the interface and being configured to  
4 automatically receive digital data from the interface and cause the digital  
5 data to be stored to a write-once-read-many (WORM) storage device.
- 1 2. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a WORM storage device.
- 1 3. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further  
2 configured to generate one or more indexes for data stored to the WORM storage  
3 device.
- 1 4. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further  
2 configured to generate meta data that describes one or more attributes of the data  
3 stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 5. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further  
2 configured to  
3 process a search query, and  
4 in response to processing the search query, generate data that identifies data stored  
5 on the WORM storage device that satisfies the search query.
- 1 6. The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further  
2 configured to process the search query against one or more indexes generated by  
3 the data processor.
- 1 7. The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further  
2 configured to automatically process the search query according to a set of one or  
3 more time criteria.
- 1 8. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes facsimile  
2 data.

- 1 9. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes electronic  
2 document data.
- 1 10. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes printer data.
- 1 11. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
2 the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and  
3 the data processor is further configured to cause a label to be applied to the  
4 WORM optical medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes  
5 of the data.
- 1 12. A method for storing data comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
2 receiving digital data to be stored; and  
3 automatically causing the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many  
4 (WORM) storage device without human intervention.
- 1 13. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating one or more  
2 indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 14. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating meta data that  
2 describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 15. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:  
2 receiving a search query,  
3 processing the search query, and  
4 generating data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that  
5 satisfies the search query.
- 1 16. The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising processing the search  
2 query against one or more indexes.
- 1 17. The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising automatically processing  
2 the search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.
- 1 18. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes facsimile  
2 data.

- 1 19. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes electronic  
2 document data.
- 1 20. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes printer data.
- 1 21. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein:  
2 the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and  
3 the method further comprises causing a label to be applied to the WORM optical  
4 medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.
- 1 22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more  
2 instructions for storing data, the one or more sequences of one or more  
3 instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more  
4 processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
5 receive digital data to be stored; and  
6 automatically cause the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many  
7 (WORM) storage device without human intervention.
- 1 23. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate one or more  
4 indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 24. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate meta data that  
4 describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 25. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to:  
4 receive a search query,  
5 process the search query, and

6 generate data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that satisfies  
7 the search query.

1 26. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to process the search query  
4 against one or more indexes.

1 27. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to automatically process the  
4 search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

1 28. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data  
2 includes facsimile data.

1 29. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data  
2 includes electronic document data.

1 30. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data  
2 includes printer data.

1 31. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein:  
2 the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and  
3 the further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which,  
4 when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more  
5 processors to cause a label to be applied to the WORM optical medium,  
6 wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.